

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

**Summary of Amendments**

Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 17, 21 and 22 are cancelled, claim 16 is amended and new claim 33 is added, whereby claims 16, 18-20 and 23-33 will be pending, with claims 16, 23 and 33 being independent claims.

Amended claim 16 generally corresponds to cancelled claim 17 which is rewritten in independent form, and new claim 33 generally corresponds to cancelled claim 21 which is rewritten in independent form.

Applicants point out that the amendment to claim 16 and the cancellation of claim 22 are without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute unamended claim 16 and canceled claim 22 in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

**Summary of Office Action**

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation that a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted in the Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed October 31, 2005 has been returned together with the present Office Action.

Applicants also note with appreciation that claims 23-32 are allowed and claims 17 and 21 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants further note that the claim rejections in the previous Office Action are not repeated in the instant Office Action.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rutz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,484,469 (hereafter "RUTZ")

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over RUTZ.

Claims 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over RUTZ in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,429,792 to Luk et al. (hereafter "LUK").

#### **Response to Office Action**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In particular, all of the claims submitted herewith are either already allowed (claims 23-32) or are indicated to be allowable (independent claims 16 and 33 correspond generally to claims 17 and 21).

Applicants emphasize that the present amendments to the claims are not to be construed as Applicants' admission that any of the claim rejections over RUTZ and LUK are meritorious. On the contrary, Applicants believe that the claims submitted in response to the previous Office Action are patentable over the newly cited documents, and the present amendments merely are to expedite the issuance of a patent on the basis of the claims submitted herewith. As pointed out above, Applicants expressly

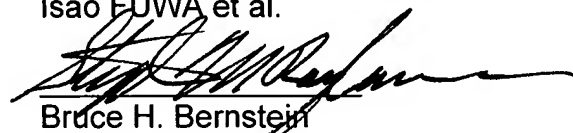
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reserve the right to prosecute unamended claim 16 and cancelled claim 22 in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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